

Mo-5599/LeA 32,647

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF: GERHARD WOTTING ET AL

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/529,680

FILED: April 17, 2000

TITLE: SILICON NITRIDE SUBSTANCES CONTAINING SINTERING ADDITIVES AND SiO₂, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THEM AND USE OF THE SAME

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DECLARATION OF DONNA VEATCH

I, Donna J. Veatch declare that I have been employed with Bayer Corporation since May, 1985. I have worked in the docketing area of the Bayer Patent Department and since January, 1990, has been the docketing coordinator for the department.

My responsibilities include docketing of all incoming USPTO mail into a computerized docketing system and maintaining the prosecution docket for a staff of patent attorneys and agents in the Bayer Corporation Patent Department.

I maintain and supervise all patent/application records in the computerized system and print out dockets for all attorneys and patent agents.

The above-identified application was docketed as having a response with a petition for extension of time mailed to the USPTO on March 10, 2003. The entry was made to the computerized record with a "check status" entered for approximately 3 months from March 10, 2003.

At the end of June, 2003, I made a telephone call to the USPTO Group for a "status check", as I had not received any communication from the USPTO on the application acknowledging receipt of the response. I was informed by the Group Clerk that a "final action" had been mailed out dated May 10, 2003. The Group Clerk advised me of the mailing address on record as being correct.

No incoming office action was received in my department for the above-identified application at any time following the May 10, 2003 date.

A communication was faxed to the Examiner of this application on July 29, 2003, requesting a restart of the time on the final action dated May 10, 2003.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signed this 10 day of September, 2003, at Pittsburgh, PA.

Donna J. Veatch
Donna J. Veatch

OFFICIAL